

ABSTRACT

Provided is a tray transfer apparatus having a transfer plate arranged and configured to support a tray containing a number of semiconductor devices in an array of pockets. The tray transfer apparatus further includes a driving means arranged and configured for the movement and positioning of the transfer plate. The transfer plate is provided with a plurality of tray holders that may be selectively engaged to support a tray and with detecting means corresponding to the array of pockets provided in a supported tray. In instances in which one or more of the detecting means sense the presence of more than one semiconductor device in a corresponding pocket of a supported tray, the tray transfer apparatus will generate an alarm signal and/or suspend operation so that corrective measures may be taken.